









## ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The first race for the Royal Engineers' Cup will be sailed on Saturday, 27th January, starting at 1.45 p.m. Course—From Police Pier, North Fairway Buoy, Kowloon Rock, Channel Rock and return to Police Pier, 10 miles, passing all marks to starboard. The second race for the above cup will be sailed on Sunday, 28th January, starting at 12.30. Course—From Police Pier, Stonecutters, Cowcove, Green Island and return to Police Pier, passing all marks to port.

## WAR NEWS BY WIRE.

(From our Exchanges.)

## The 16th Lancers.

LAHORE, December 30th. The strength of the 16th Lancers proceeded to South Africa will be 15 officers, 1 medical officer, 63 officers' chargers, 550 of other ranks and 470 horses. The regiment leaves Umballa on the evening of the New Year's Day, arriving at Deolali on the 15th proximo. Lieutenant F. W. Hunt proceeds in veterinary charge. Lieutenant Colonel Dawson, of the 9th Bengal Lancers, proceeds in charge, with Major Biddulph, of the 10th Bengal Lancers, as second-in-command. Only stable gear will be taken with the horses.

## Artillery for the Front.

CALCUTTA, December 31st. Two Batteries of R. H. A. are now under orders for South Africa, one from Meerut and the other from Bangalore. The first from Meerut will be "J" Battery. It will take 15-pounder equipment from the 40th Field Battery, and will be made up in men and horses from "L" Battery at Secunderabad. A few British officers from Native Cavalry Regiments are also being deputed to accompany the reinforcements. Captains Binstead and Arnold, of the 1st Madras Lancers, are amongst these under orders.

The *Englishman* understands that a number of officers from all branches of the service in India will shortly proceed to South Africa to replace casualties there.

## The "Bundesrath."

LONDON, December 31st. The German officers attached to the steamer *Bundesrath* state that arms are being landed at Delagoa Bay for the Boers, also that a French liner lately brought in there two large guns from Madagascar consigned to the same destination. Dr. Leyds denies this, and says that the imputation is only a pretext for the occupying of Delagoa Bay. The *Times* Cape correspondent states that after the Magersfontein battle the Boers tended the British wounded on the field. The New York and Boston City Councils have adopted resolutions wishing success to the Boers.

## General.

JANUARY 1st. Correspondents at General Buller's camp anticipate an early movement of the Boers, who are said to be about to strike their present camp and move westwards, owing to want of confidence in their present position. The *Standard's* Pretoria correspondent states that 620 rounds of ammunition were lost with the guns at Tugela. Mr. Winston Churchill states that the white flag at Nicholson's Nek was raised by a wounded captain of the Gloucestershires. A number of Boer spies have been detected at Home attempting to join the Imperial Yeomanry, and special precautions are being taken accordingly.

The Queen has called the following to the General commanding the various Divisions at the Cape:—"I wish you and all my brave soldiers a Happy Christmas. May God protect and bless you all." The Fentians have recommenced activity in the United States, and a ridiculous statement is made to the effect that they are storing ammunition of war to invade Canada. The Viceroy of India, who has kept the Queen constantly informed as to the striking evidence of loyalty that has been forthcoming from all classes and communities in India in connection with the war in South Africa, has been requested by Her Majesty to let it be known how gratifying to her have been these expressions of loyalty from her Indian subjects.

## Horses for S. Africa.

LUCKNOW, January 1st. The 15th Bengal Lancers, and the 5th and 7th Bengal Cavalry, have been ordered for 80 horses, one native officer, one farrier, and eight syles for mounted infantry service in South Africa. They leave Calcutta in the hired transport *Uganda*. The non-commissioned officers and men of the 1st Cameroonian have raised Rs. 104 voluntarily for the wounded, and for the families of those killed, of the 2nd battalion now in South Africa. 300 artillery horses have been accepted by the Government of India from the Maharajahs, of Scindia and Gwalior, for service in South Africa.

## More Artillery.

BANGALORE, January 1st. "I" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, has been ordered to proceed to South Africa immediately. The Battery leaves at the end of the week, taking the 15-pounder guns of the 40th Field Battery from here, and the equipment and horses of "E" Battery, Horse Artillery, from Secunderabad. The total strength will be five officers and 200 men.

## The Militia.

LONDON, January 3rd. It is officially announced that Government has decided to employ outside of Great Britain twelve militia battalions. Seven of these battalions will go to South Africa, viz., the 4th Lancashire, the Warwickshires, the 3rd South Lancashire, the 4th Derbyshires, the 9th Rifle Corps, the 3rd Durhams and the 4th Argyll. Two battalions will be sent to Malta, and two to the Channel Islands.

## Scandalous Treatment.

LORRIZO MARQUES, January 1st. Northern Natal residents who have arrived from Pretoria prison bring reports of scandalous treatment, many prisoners being treated there like common convicts. While military prisoners belonging to the Regulars were treated with every consideration, South African Irregulars were lodged in the ordinary gaol and kept on criminal diet. Major Daly and 41 men of the R.A.M.C., who left Dundee at the time of the evacuation, are on their way from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay.

## The Belmont Fight.

The Commando, which was defeated by Colonel Pilcher at Belmont consisted chiefly of disloyal colonists. Colonel Pilcher afterwards occupied Douglas, where he received an ovation from the loyalists. It transpires that Colonel Pilcher's smart achievement near Belmont on Monday was assisted to success by a skilful diversion made from Modder River by Colonel Babbington, commanding the Cavalry Brigade of Lord Methuen's force. Operating to the north in a masterly fashion,

Colonel Babbington effectually prevented reinforcements from joining the Boer force, thus deciding the issue in our favour.

## Colosburg.

Although subjected to a smart bombardment General French still holds the whiplash at Colosburg. He is strongly entrenched on a hill which commands both Colosburg bridge and the road. The *Central News* reports that, having received large reinforcements, especially artillery, the Boers have reoccupied their positions at Colosburg, and are proceeding to bombard General French's camp. Quick-firing guns came into action yesterday morning, and maintained a heavy cannonade on the British entrenchments. From further south it is announced that the Boers have advanced from their position at Stormberg to attack General Gatacre at Molteno, and that an action is proceeding.

The latest news from the seat of war indicates a general advance by the Boers against the British at different points of the whole campaign. It is believed that this is the result of the news received by General Joubert of the appointment of Lord Roberts to command, his idea being to inflict a crushing blow on the British before the new Commander-in-Chief can arrive with reinforcements. The Tugela River is now fordable; and an action between the Boers forces in Natal and General Buller's troops may be expected at any moment. On the other side of the river the activity of the enemy is considerable. The Natal Carabineers patrolling in the direction of Springfield saw the Boers mounting cannon.

## Portugal.

The Royal Speech at the opening of the Portuguese Cortes was silent regarding the Transvaal war and Delagoa Bay. In the Portuguese Chamber, the Foreign Minister said that Portugal strove to prevent both belligerents deriving any advantages at Delagoa Bay, and he had no reason to doubt the correct attitude of Great Britain.

## Reserve Officers.

An Army Order has been issued which sanctions the employment of a certain number of Reserve officers, not above the rank of Major, to fill the vacancies caused by the casualties in South Africa. The *Kildonan Castle*, with 78 officers and 2,570 men, sailed from Southampton to-day.

## Ladysmith.

LADYSMITH, January 1st. Since Christmas the Boers have redoubled their energy. Shelling is practically continuous, except at night. Few casualties have occurred, except in the Devons. The Boers are very alert, and constantly fire thousands of rounds at imaginary night sorties. All here are confident. The New Year was ushered in with a nocturnal bombardment. News is scarce. We almost daily hear firing near Colenso. The enemy is very restless. So far the greatest difficulty is with regard to medical appliances. The weather is fine; and the river is falling.

## The Naval Brigade.

PRETORIA, 2nd January. Yesterday evening the Naval Brigade, previously marking the direction by a line of white stakes, shelled the trenches near Colenso. The Boers did not reply. Natives from the Boer camp state that the enemy is busy fortifying the drifts higher up the river, cutting miles of barbed wire fencing to lay in the river bed.

## Douglas.

Colonel Pilcher left Douglas yesterday morning, and has arrived at Ricipan with all the loyal inhabitants, and with captured tents and wagons and cattle. A battery of 12-pounder quick-firing guns will be added to the City Volunteer Corps, going to South Africa.

## Traction Engines.

The traction engines have been tested and pulled wagons satisfactorily through the rivulets. The transports *Gorkha*, *Dracmar Castle*, and *Assaye* sailed from Southampton to-day with 4,428 troops for the Cape.

## Indian Officers for the Front.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 4th. The following officers proceed to South Africa:—Captain MacAndrew, of the 5th Bombay Cavalry; Captains Binstead and Arnold, of the 1st Madras Lancers; Majors Vans, Agnew and Kerrick, 3rd Madras Lancers; and Lieutenant Orr, 2nd Lancers. Hyderabad Contingent, Lieutenants Milner and Daniels, and Royal Irish Regiment, in view of early promotion to the rank of Captain, have been transferred to the 1st Battalion of their Regiment, and have been ordered to South Africa. Orders have been issued by the Government for the despatch of three hundred soldiers to South Africa from Burma, 150 each to be supplied by the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry. Three hundred Burma ponies for the Infantry, with equipments will accompany them. R. I. M. *Clive* will be employed to convey the troops.

## Horses for the Cape.

JANUARY 5th. Captain C. Wigram, A.D.C. to H.E. the Viceroy, leaves Calcutta this evening for Hyderabad. He will take charge of 100 horses for the Cape. The *Englishman's* correspondent at Delhi wires on Jan. 4th that Captain C. Gough, of the 12th Bengal Cavalry, one of the officers selected to proceed to the Cape with reinforcements from India, has also been specially chosen to join Lord Roberts's Staff in the Transvaal.

## Prisoners and Dead.

LONDON, January 5th. Lorenzo Marquez, Jan. 3rd—Colonel Hunt, the Tugela prisoner, has recovered from his wounds. Major Daly's Ambulance Party reports that he (Major Daly) was much harassed and insulted. Many Boers, even officers, acted badly, but many were very appreciative. With the co-operation of the Swedish mission, Major Daly encamped around ground for 15 Boers and some British who died of their wounds at the battle of Dundee. The graves are marked with wooden crosses and stone pillars.

## General French.

A telegram dated Naauport, Thursday, says that General French is gradually improving his position, and is commanding the Boers on three sides, the Artillery doing splendid work. A *Central News* telegram from Rensburg, on Thursday, states that the Boers from Colosburg, a thousand strong, attacked General French's left flank at five that morning. They met with a determined resistance, and were compelled to retire upon a kopje. Their position there was attacked, and General French's mounted Infantry, who took nineteen prisoners. The Boers lost fifty killed and wounded. A squadron of Immortals Dragoons early in the fight charged a body of Boers, killing several. Our cavalry and two guns crossed the plain after the flank attack was repulsed, and dislodged the enemy from several hills. An official despatch dated Cape Town the 4th inst., states that at the special request of

General French, the Household Cavalry, the 20th Field Artillery, and the 1st Essex, have been despatched to him temporarily. Colonel Babbington has returned to Modder River. Though unable to strike a blow, his presence protected Colonel Pilcher.

## Mafeking.

JANUARY 6th. A despatch from Colonel Baden Powell, dated the 26th December, states that he attacked one of the enemy's works that morning with three guns and two squadrons of the "Protective" Regiment, a Squadron of the Bechuanaland Horse, and an armoured train. The attack was gallantly pressed home, but all efforts to gain the interior of the fort by escalading failed, and the British withdrew after six officers and a large number of men had been hit. The killed were Captains Ronald Vernon and Harry Sandford of the Staff Corps, and Lieutenant Harold Paton of the Protectorate Regiment. The wounded included Captain Fitz Clarence of the Royal Fusiliers.

The report from Pretoria that Lord Roberts had been wounded at Mafeking is devoid of foundation.

## Mafeking, December 26th.

The attack to-day on Gun Tree Fort was prepared by the artillery. Advancing within rifle range, the attacking force found the position stronger than was supposed. The fire was hot, and an advance was almost impossible; but, with remarkable heroism, Captains Sandford and Vernon and Lieutenant Paton and a few men, reached the sandbags of the fort. Nothing could live within 300 yards. The ground was swept by Maxims and Martini. Terrible losses were incurred in charging through the zone of fire. Twenty men of "C" Squadron were killed. Captain Sandford first, and then Captain Vernon, who was already twice wounded, and Lieutenant Paton, arrived at the foot of the fort. Captain Vernon and Lieut. Paton, climbing the ditch, thrust their revolvers through the loopholes, which were hot with the rifle fire. But the position was found to be impregnable, and we retired.

All our wounded were hit close to the fort. Many showed that explosive bullets had been used. The field court had admitted that at one time explosive bullets were sent out, but stated all had previously been expended. Some Boers killed our dead. The Field Cornet regretted it, but was unable to accept responsibility. The younger men being uncontrollable. He alleged that the British stripped General Kock when wounded. It is believed that spies reported our contemplated attack; and that the fort was strengthened at night and reinforced.

## WAR FINANCE.

Whatever else may be doubtful it is now evident that the provision already made by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach for the war expenditure is altogether inadequate. When, in October last, he submitted his supplementary estimate of £10,000,000, his calculation as to the cost of the war was based on two assumptions. One was that the force that had then been decided to send to South Africa would be sufficient to subjugate the Boers, and the other that it would accomplish this task in a comparatively brief time. "Every day that passes," he said, "brings us nearer the time when we shall possess an overwhelming force in South Africa, and I see no reason whatever to anticipate that the campaign may not be brought to a successful termination well within the period to which the estimates have referred"—that being the close of the fiscal year ending March 31st next. It is casting no discredit on Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to say that both of those calculations have been falsified, for in such a matter the Chancellor of the Exchequer must be guided by the opinion of those upon whom the Government have to rely for expert advice. Still, we are face to face with the fact that, to bring about the ultimate victory we shall no doubt achieve, a force very much greater than was at first considered more than adequate will have to be employed, and we can no longer indulge in the hope that the campaign will be a short one. The cost of the war, therefore, must be very much heavier than Sir Michael Hicks-Beach anticipated—not improbably four or five times as great—and the financial arrangements which he considered sufficient for the occasion must in consequence be greatly enlarged and modified.

It will be remembered that towards his estimated expenditure of £10,000,000 Sir Michael Hicks-Beach calculated upon obtaining £3,000,000 from a surplus of revenue over ordinary expenditure during the current year, and he took authority to raise, by the issue of Treasury Bills, not only the balance of £7,000,000, but a total of £8,000,000, so as to leave himself a margin for contingencies. So far as the surplus revenue for this year is concerned, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's figure of £3,000,000 may prove to be not very much over the mark. In his budget he estimated that the income of this year would exceed that of 1898 by £2,821,000, but the actual receipts up till Saturday last have exceeded those in the corresponding period of last year by £4,270,000. Thus the excess is already about £1,450,000 greater than the estimated growth for the whole year, and a further substantial increase may be expected between now and the end of March next. But even if the surplus should amount to the full £3,000,000 reckoned upon, the limit of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's borrowing powers will evidently be reached long before the end of the year. It is not improbable, indeed, that already all the £8,000,000 authorised to be raised by the Treasury bills has been practically spent, although only £3,000,000 of each bill has yet been issued. The expenditure for the Supply Service up-to-date is about £6,500,000 greater than in the corresponding period of last year, and contracts and other engagements have, no doubt, been entered into which will run into many millions more; and although the payments in connection with these have been deferred, the liability has been incurred. It is obvious, therefore, that Parliament will soon have to be called upon to vote large additional supplies, and that involves the complete upsetting of the scheme of war finance which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach submitted in October last. He elected to raise the money he wanted by an issue of Treasury bills for two reasons. One was that the amount was comparatively small, the other and main reason being that he intended to redeem the whole of the £10,000,000, less the portion of it to be charged, as a war indemnity upon the Transvaal Treasury, in the course of the next two years. But when it comes to be a question of dealing, not with £10,000,000, but possibly with £40,000,000 or £50,000,000, these considerations can no longer prevail. The amount is far too big to be financed by additions to the floating debt, which it would swell to undue dimensions, and it is much too big also to be charged upon the resources of a couple of years.

The inference, therefore, is that whatever funds have to be raised will be obtained by an increase of the funded rather than of the floating debt. That is all the more probable, because in addition to the actual outlay on the war, provision will have ultimately to be made for indemnifying our South African colonies for the losses they have sustained through the incursion of the Boers. These losses will, of course, constitute a claim against the Transvaal

Treasury, but then the bigger the burden of that kind it is made to bear, the less will be its capacity to recoup us for the expenditure we have incurred. Besides, apart altogether from the actual cost of the war, it is evident that we must prepare ourselves for a considerable addition to our normal military expenditure. That in a war which, however trying, cannot be regarded as of the first magnitude, we have been compelled to draw upon our last line of reserves proves that our army is too small for the requirements of our constantly growing Empire, and will have to be increased. And proud though we have reason to be of the splendid response that has been made to the call for volunteers and for funds to support the families of the Reservists, it cannot be desirable that our military arrangements should be suffered to rest permanently upon a basis of voluntary contributions. What we are now recognising to be a national duty ought to be made a national obligation, and not the least dependent upon individual generosity. Proved defects in our armaments also will have to be made good, whilst in view of the additions, actual or prospective, that our continental neighbours are making to their fleets, the outlook is for a growth rather than a diminution in naval expenditure. The next two or three years therefore will have added burdens enough to bear without saddling them, as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach had intended to do, with the cost of the present war.—*Economist*.

## FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

The programme for the reception of Prince Waldeemar at Saigon comprises a round of festivities to last at least four days. The events arranged for are—Reception at Government House, dinner followed by a ball, torchlight procession, review of the garrison, horse races, dinner at the Militia Club, a fair, a grand performance at the new theatre, regatta, ball on board a man-of-war, grand Chinese dragon procession, and other minor items. The programme has, as is the custom in such cases, been laid before Prince Waldeemar for his approval. The races in his honour have aroused intense interest among sportsmen at Saigon.

In Annam, a few miles from Touran, a sea-port, valuable coal deposits have been found. Several French and British engineers have tested the coal, and have found the quality to be good. Analyses of the coal have been made with satisfactory results both at Saigon and in France. So promising are the prospects that a syndicate to work the mines has been promoted. Hopes are now higher than ever. Fresh analyses have been made, and the results obtained have been, conclusive enough. The syndicate is expected to begin operations in two months time from January. Several persons at Saigon are members of the syndicate.

Bad news comes from Kwangchowwan, the port of Hainan, held by France under lease. The Chinese there are said to have massacred hundreds of Catholic converts. The *Kwantung*, a man of war, has left Haiphong in Tonquin for Kwangchowwan at the urgent request of the authorities. Large quantities of ammunition have also been sent thither. This massacre runs counter to the official reports of all being quiet in the new French possession.

The Governor-General has visited Hongay, a seaport in Tonquin which it is proposed to connect with Yunnan by railway. He inspected the forts there. More forts are to be constructed in that quarter, besides barracks and machine shops.

The Home Government has sanctioned the proposals put forward by the Governor-General to raise taxes on salt, tobacco, and areca nuts in the Colony. These taxes are unpopular, but revenue needs are urgent.

The Governor-General has been actively engaged in arranging for the Indo-China show at the Paris Exhibition. It will take up one-third of the space allotted for colonial exhibits.

The Attorney-General of Cochinchina has returned to Saigon from a mission to Singapore. He went there to enquire into the precise legal standing of Chinese British subjects. There are many of them in the French Colony.

In the protected State of Cambodia, tea-plants have been discovered growing wild. It is hoped that this tea can be cultivated and improved into a paying article. Anything of the kind would give a much needed push to planting enterprise in that quarter.—*Straits Times*.

## SHIPPING REPORTS.

Captain Fowler, of the steamship *Phra Chom Kiao*, from Bangkok, via Ang Hin, reports:—"We left for Cape Padaran strong monsoon and high sea, thence to port light wind and fine weather."

Captain A. E. Hodgins, of the steamship *Haimun*, from Tamsui, reports:—"From Tamsui to Amoy calm and thick fog, Amoy to Hongkong moderate N.E. winds and fine cloudy weather. Vessels in Amoy—*Choyoda Maru*, 2 Japanese and 1 German cruisers."

Captain H. E. Batt, of the steamship *Pyrrhus*, from Liverpool and Singapore, reports:—"Moderate N.E. by N. winds and sea from Singapore to the Paracels, thence light easterly wind and smooth sea until 30 miles south of Gap Rock when a fresh N.E. breeze sprang up with choppy sea."

## NOTANDA.

CALENDAR.  
JANUARY.  
Meteorological means based on fifteen years' observations to 1895.  
Barometer..... 30.159  
Thermometer..... 59.7  
Humidity..... 74  
Rainfall..... 1.545

TO-DAY.  
WEATHER REPORT.  
On date at 10 a.m. On date at 4 p.m.  
Barometer..... 30.13 30.04  
Temperature..... 64 65  
Humidity..... 81 77  
Rainfall.....

TO-DAY.  
Tuesday, 23rd January, 1900.  
Chinese—23rd of 12th moon of 25th year of Kwang-si.  
Sun—Rises..... 6hr. 43min.  
Sets..... 5hr. 40min.  
High water—Morning..... 5hr. 00min.  
Evening..... 5hr. 30min.  
Low water—Morning..... 1hr. 30min.  
Evening..... 1hr. 30min.

ANNIVERSARIES.  
1841—S.S. *Enterprise* left for Hongkong with news of the cession of Hongkong.  
1856—Volunteer Fire Brigade organised in Hongkong.  
1862—The British brig *Imogene* plundered and burned by pirates.  
1863—The Governor of Hongkong granted permission to wear the uniform of the 1st Class.  
1868—P. & O. steamer *Nippon* lost off Amoy.  
1874—Duke of Saxe-Coburg married.  
1896—Treaty signed making Madagascar a French possession.  
1897—Passenger junk capsized in Haitan Straits; over 100 lives lost.

TO-MORROW.  
Wednesday, 24th January, 1900.  
Chinese—24th of 12th moon of 25th year of Kwang-si.  
Sun—Rises..... 6hr. 43min.  
Sets..... 5hr. 40min.  
High water—Morning..... 5hr. 58min.  
Evening..... 5hr. 16min.  
Low water—Morning..... 1hr. 23min.  
Evening..... 1hr. 23min.

ANNIVERSARIES.  
1601—Mathews Roper, the Jesuit missionary, entered Pekin.  
1870—U.S. corvette *Albatross* lost through collision with P. & O. steamer *Thames* near Yokohama.

## AGENDA.

TO-MORROW.  
11.30 a.m.—Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the West Point Building Co. Ltd. at Company's offices, Victoria Buildings.  
12 noon—Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co. Ltd. at the same place.  
2.45 p.m.—Auction Sale of household furniture by Geo. P. Lammett at Rose Villas West, Bonham Road.  
Cargo ex *Chelyabinsk* subject to rent.  
H.K.V.C. ORDERS.  
5.30 p.m.—Gun Drill for the recruits of all units.  
5.30 p.m.—"D" Co. Company Drill.  
6 p.m.—"E" Co. Company Drill.  
5-6 p.m.—Practice for unencolled drummers.  
6-7 p.m.—Band practice.

## THURSDAY, 25th.

10 a.m.—Steamer *Kanari* leaves for Samarang and Sourabaya.  
"Ben" Line steamer *Redmond* leaves for London.  
C. N. steamer *Nanchang* leaves for Manila, Iloilo and Cebu.  
Cargo ex *America Maru* subject to rent.  
(About) P. & O. steamer *Bombay* leaves for London.  
Noon—Navigation General Italiana steamer *Bisagno* leaves for Bombay.  
4.15 p.m.—Rugby match between the Officers Army and Navy and Civilians.  
H.K.V.C. ORDERS.  
4.30 p.m.—Range finding class.  
5 p.m.—Hongkong Boat Club—Race between Garrison, Club and German crews. Launch leaves Queen Statue Wharf for friends, at 4.45 p.m.  
5.30 p.m.—Trumpeters' class.  
5.30 p.m.—F.B. Gun Drill at Kowloon Docks.  
5.30 p.m.—"A" "B" and "C" Coys. Gun Drill at East Point.

## FRIDAY, 26th.

Cargo ex *Bengal* subject to rent.  
Daylight.—N. Y. K. steamer *Kamakura Maru* leaves for Europe.  
4 p.m.—N. Y. K. steamer *Yamato Maru* leaves for Australia.  
4.45 p.m.—Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong Philharmonic Society at the City Hall.  
8.30 to 9 p.m.—Regular meeting of the Victoria Precinctory.  
H.K.V.C. ORDERS.  
4 p.m.—F.B. Gun Drill at Head-quarters.

## SATURDAY, 27th.

Noon—T. K. K. steamer *Ameria Maru* leaves for San Francisco.  
Noon—E. & A. steamer *Eastern* leaves for Sydney and Melbourne.  
9 p.m.—Concert in aid of the "Misses and Kids" Fund at Victoria Recreation Club.  
8.45 p.m.—Meeting of members of Institute of Engineers and Ship Builders of Hongkong to hear report and statement of accounts, at their rooms.

## MONDAY, 29th.

3.15 and 3.30 p.m.—Auction sales of Crown lands at P.W.D. Offices.

## SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE.  
German (*Oltendur*) 25th inst.  
Indian (*Aradon Ahar*) 26th inst.  
French (*Laoon*) 28th inst.  
American (*Garlic*) 3rd prox.  
American (*Hongkong Maru*) 13th prox.

The M. M. Co.'s steamer *Laos* left Saigon on Thursday at 6 a.m. on the 23rd inst. for this port.

The N. P. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Arab* sailed from Portland Oregon for Japan and Hongkong on the 20th inst., and also that this Co.'s steamer *Monmouthshire* arrived at Portland Oregon on the 21st inst.

## HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.

Ship	From	Date
<i>Isle de Cuba</i>	at Kowloon Dock	
<i>Isle de Luzon</i>	"	
<i>H.L.G.M.S. Hertha</i>	"	
<i>H.L.G.M.S. Gefion</i>	"	
<i>U.S.S. Monadnock</i>	"	
<i>U.S.S. Iris</i>	"	
<i>H.M.S. Tenedos</i>	"	
<i>Kiangtung</i>	"	
<i>Italian</i>	"	
<i>Trinidad</i>	"	
<i>Kinchin</i>	"	
<i>D. Juan d'Austria</i>	" Cosmopolitan	
<i>Memuir</i>	"	
<i>Daphne</i>	"	
<i>Lycemon</i>	"	

## PASSED THE CANAL.

Outward—30th December—*Astoria*, *Denver*, *St. Jerome*, *Indus*, *Dart*, *Lookout*, *Lyranaw*, *Olyssa*, 2nd January—*Clyton*, *Tramcar*, *Emma*, *Lykin*, *Oltendur*, *Saguti*, *Maru*, *St. Andrew*, 3th January—*Laos*, *Nestor*, *Teak*, *Erzherzog Ferdinand*, *Denbighshire*, *Orman*, 9th January—*Glen-turret*, *Tuskur*, 12th January—*Ision*, *Calchas*, *Sado Maru*, 16th January—*Daye*, *Idemene*, *Hakatomaru*, *Nurnberg*, 19th January—*Eidsvold*, *Candia*, *Copack*, *Prinz Heinrich*, *Sydney*, *Andanito*.

Homeward—12th Jan.—*Andalusia*, *Savona*, 16th January—*Yarra*, *Suevia*, 19th January—*Japan*, *Konigsberg*.

## Shipping.

ARRIVALS.  
*PHRA CHOM KIAO*, British steamer, 1,011 J. Fowler, 22nd Jan.—Bangkok 14th Jan, and Anglin 16th, General—Yuen Fat Hong.  
*WARFIELD*, British steamer, 2,000 C. Knoren, 22nd Jan.—Batoum 6th Dec, and Singapore 14th Jan. Oil—Doddwell & Co. Ltd.  
*EMPEROR OF INDIA*, British steamer, 2,003 O. P. Marshall, R.N.R., 23rd January—Vancouver 15th Jan., and Shanghai 20th. Mails and General—C. P. R. Co.  
*YAWATA MARU*, Japanese steamer, 2,367, A. E. Moses, 23rd Jan.—Nagasaki 19th Jan, General—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.  
*PYRRHUS*, British steamer, 2,281, H. E. Batt, 23rd Jan.—Liverpool 9th Dec, and Singapore 16th Jan, General—Butterfield & Swire.

*HAIMUN*, British steamer, 636, A. E. Hodgins, 23rd Jan.—Tamsui 20th Jan., and Amoy 22nd, General—Douglas, Lamait & Co.  
*KARLSRUHE*, German steamer, 5,057, G. Dannemann, 23rd January—Japan and Shanghai 20th Jan., Mails and General—Melchers & Co.  
*VALKYRIE*, Danish transport, 3,000, Prince Valdemar, 23rd Jan.—Saigon 19th Jan.  
*NANCHANG*, British steamer, 1,064, E. Findlayson, 23rd Jan.—Cebu and Manila 20th Jan, General—Butterfield & Swire.  
*TAI LEE*, German steamer, 828, T. Calender, 23rd Jan.—Saigon 19th Jan., Rice—Meyer & Co.







## WAR ITEMS.

(From Canadian Papers.)

## The "Times" Complaints.

The "Times" complains of needless censorship and concealment. It cites the fact that nothing has yet transpired to show how Gen. Gatacre came to lose 600 men at Stormberg.

## Boers Nervous.

A dispatch from the front represents the Boers as in a nervous condition and constant dread of the British advance, but this is probably an exaggeration. Capetown dispatches complain of the inadequacy of the hospital arrangements.

## Cost of the War.

It is now estimated that the war will cost at least eighty million pounds and it is suggested that the sinking fund of the national debt should be suspended for five or six years in order to defray the cost.

## The United States and the Seizures.

"It is satisfactory," says the *Times* editorially this morning, to hear that the Washington government is acting with regard to the American cargoes seized in Delagoa Bay as we should have wished and expected. It is a matter of course that we shall make full reparation, if reparation is proved to be due. In the meantime it may be noted, as the Americans themselves admit, that the facts are in considerable doubt and that some of them seem to be rather compensating to the vessels seized. There will be time enough to talk law and the policy of the step when the facts have been authoritatively ascertained.

## Prisoners Threatened.

The Transvaal government, according to information supplied by Boer sympathizers, threatens to "reduce the nations of British prisoners, if Great Britain stops the entrance of food by Delagoa Bay."

## The Situation.

Mr. Henry Spencer Wilkinson, the *Morning Post's* military expert, in a review of the situation to-day says: "The time has apparently arrived for the nation to insist, if not upon a military dictatorship, at least upon the admission into the cabinet of a military minister empowered to veto any proposal as detrimental to the successful prosecution of the war, and also that the administration of the army shall be placed wholly in the hands of a tried military administration."

## The Boers at Colenso.

LONDON, December 20th.  
The *Daily Mail* publishes a dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated December 23rd, which says:

"Every day reveals some new fact regarding the strength of the Boer position at Colenso. Thanks to the services of the command officers, the character of the camp again has changed. We are no longer fighting a foe who relies upon rapid tactics, but we have to deal with what is rapidly becoming a disciplined army enjoying the advantages of knowing the country and of selecting the scene of contest without the burdens of a cumbersome commissariat. The Boers have converted the little hills near Colenso into fortresses of immense strength. Everywhere they have splendid trenches, many of them being bomb-proof. Tramway lines permit the shifting of guns with astonishing rapidity. The main positions are connected with the outlying positions by underground passages and the forts proper bristle with machine guns, that command the approaches. Probably mines are laid. One hears less nowadays about Boer shells not bursting. Observers of the Colenso fight say the Boer's shells were very effective. This is due largely to the fact that the distances are marked off with white paint. The enemy's discipline is improving. The trenches represent great manual labour for which the Boers have a keen dislike, and the way in which they restrained their fire when our troops were advancing is another proof of improved soldiering. A correspondent of the *Daily News* at Frere Camp announces that a tramway is being constructed from the railway to a hill commanding the Boer position, and that along this the British will convey heavy guns. A Ladysmith dispatch, dated Wednesday, December 20th, says the heat was then intense, being 104 degrees Fahrenheit. There were many cases of enteric fever in the town at that time, but not enough to cause alarm. On the other hand Boer sources on the continent assert that typhoid fever is epidemic in Ladysmith."

## Shelling Ladysmith.

CHIEVELEY CAMP, Natal, Dec. 27th.  
A heavy Boer gun on Bulwaha hill fired steadily on Ladysmith throughout the morning. Ladysmith did not respond. The enemy was attempting to improve their trenches facing Gen. Buller, the British heavy guns opened upon them, and the Boers scampered back into the hills. The British patrols sighted the enemy in force on our extreme left. Nine Boers were killed in a skirmish that followed, and six Boer wagons were captured.

## Boers Talk of a Compromise.

DURBAN NATAL, December 23rd.  
Mr. Winston Churchill says that from conversation with members of the Transvaal executive at Pretoria, he learned that the Boers began the war with trepidation, but that President Kruger is now confident Great Britain will soon sue for peace. In the highest Transvaal circles, Mr. Churchill asserts, there is serious talk of a compromise by which Great Britain would cede the territory now occupied by the armies of the two republics, pay an indemnity of twenty million pounds and acknowledge the complete independence of the Transvaal.

## For Dependents of Canadians.

MONTREAL, December 28th.  
The following cablegram from Stratford, dated London, to-day, has been received by Premier Laurier: "A. C. Harcourt, of the London *Daily Mail*, has handed me a check for £1,000 as a donation from the Kipling fund for dependents of the Canadian contingent. He states that it is sent in recognition of Canada's prompt and magnificent response to the call of the Mother Country to her children. The cheque will be transmitted through the Bank of Montreal."

## Commercial Traders' Contribution.

TOKYO, December 28th.  
At the annual meeting of the Commercial Traders to-day a vote of £10,000 was passed as a nucleus to the fund for dependents of the Canadian soldiers in Africa, provided the rules permit. The resolution passed amid great cheering and the singing of patriotic songs.

## Canada for South Africa.

OTTAWA, December 28th.

It is understood that Lieut.-Col. Steele, superintendent of Northwest Mounted Police, who recently returned from the Yukon, will be appointed to command the two Northwest squadrons of the second contingent. These squadrons will be selected for more daring and more general work than the two squadrons of mounted infantry.

## Postoffice Employees.

The offer of Hon. W. Mulock to send five postoffice employees to South Africa to join the Imperial army postal corps there at the expense of the Ottawa post office department has been accepted. This offer was made by Mr. Mulock when the last contingent was being sent. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain regretted that all arrangements had been made by the British postal department and the offer could not be accepted.

When Mr. Mulock returned from Toronto yesterday morning he found a cable waiting him accepting the offer which he had previously made. The result will be that five trained hands of the department will be sent to South Africa to represent Canada.

The postmaster-general had a long conference with Lord Minto at Rideau Hall this forenoon and doubtless the whole matter was talked over and a reply sent to Mr. Chamberlain. At a meeting of the cabinet later Mr. Mulock laid his proposition before his colleagues. The negotiations are carried on through the Militia Department and War Office.

OTTAWA, December 28th.

The Minister of Militia has accepted the offer of Capt. Howard, of getting gun teams to accompany the second contingent to South Africa. He will have charge of the Maxim gun, equipped on a light carriage, which will allow of its being galloped into and out of action with the mounted rifles.

## The Seizure of Flour.

NEW YORK, December 28th.

Exporters of flour in New York are greatly interested in the recent seizure by Great Britain of certain flour cargoes, and the reports that England has seized or will seize Delagoa Bay. They are seeking the opinion of experts in international law regarding the flour seizures.

The *Tribune* says the Washington officials express confidence that the British government will make full reparation for any act committed by its naval agents if it turns out to have been illegal or unjustified. It seems that among the rules for contraband of war adopted by the United States last year is one which says that among the articles conditionally contraband are provisions when destined for an enemy's ship or ships, or for a place besieged. Some attorneys think that if England can prove she is conducting a campaign of reduction and ultimately contemplates the investment of Johannesburg or Pretoria, she can rightly claim that large shipments of flour and other food stuffs destined for Transvaal cities are for the aid and comfort of the enemy.

## An Investigation.

WASHINGTON, December 28th.

The work of ascertaining the facts connected with the seizure of American flour by British warships has been confided to the United States Consular Agent at Lorenzo Marquez. Under instructions sent by Secretary Hay yesterday he will ascertain all the facts connected with the case, and particularly the names of the persons to whom this flour was consigned and the actual ownership of the goods.

## UNCLAIMED LETTERS AT THE POST OFFICE.

Letters for the following persons lie unclaimed at the Post Office:

Arnold, A. K. Lochender, Lord  
Angier, A. G. Lillie, J. J.  
Abraham, J. Lanka, J.  
Ah Fong, Miss Lambie & Dodge, J. E.  
Amoy, Fanny Lourenthal, J.  
Alkoff, A. Linse, M. H.  
Armstrong, A. Lalouere  
Alves & Co. Messrs. Lee, C. A. Lieut.  
All Miss. Lidion, M. E.  
Angel, M. Lunie, Mrs.  
Armsmocker Lee, Henrietta  
Baker, A. M. Lhazard, D.  
Barton, W. T. Lhazard, H. K.  
Bickendorf, A. McClelland, Miss  
Brown Bros., N. P. Mosley, Mrs. M. E.  
Butt & Co. Maitland, R. A.  
Butt, W. S. Mason, Miss F. O.  
Blaskery, A. McGovern, P.  
Brown, R. A. McCoughan, E. L.  
Bisset, & Co. Messrs. Madegain, G.  
Baroniam, Z. S. Malgry, C.  
Bourdoul, B. de Moore, Mrs. M.  
Bennet, J. Mui Yung, Mrs.  
Benemer, Mr. Montilla, T.  
Blake, R. E. Mower, F. R.  
Baring, T. Masanor, Miss  
Banihago, E. M. Masanor, Miss  
Bibb, Angan Matsumoto, Miss  
Browning, Miss B. Moichichudi, A. K.  
Ballard, Anna Mordica, S. R.  
Brennes, C. Mayeda, O.  
Burnett, L. C. Macuse, M. A.  
Brusse, G. Macay, A. K.  
Buckley, S. S. Macay, A. K.  
Bunbridge, Miss. Maibara, Mr.  
Bloom, Rosa Maralla, C.  
Brooks, F. Marquis, F. A. M.  
Berthier, T. McGilvray, D.  
Benjamin, D. Modigan, E. S.  
Bannister, C. Marrio, H. D.  
Bowles, C. E. McNamee, R.  
Crook, Miss H. C. Niven, L.  
Charlis, W. D. Norris, Miss A.  
Cum Y. W. S. Nagata, T.  
Clos, G. Natsubara, J.  
Christensen, Mrs. B. Nishida, S.  
Christensen, Mrs. B. Nishida, S.  
Crawback, H. Ohtsu, Miss  
Cowell, J. M. Ohtsu, Miss  
Capps, W. L. Ohtsu, Miss  
Cunston, Miss E. Ohtsu, Miss  
Clarke, S. J. Ohtsu, Miss  
Craig, Miss A. Ohtsu, Miss  
Cliffon, G. Ohtsu, Miss  
Chinevala, S. F. Ohtsu, Miss  
Crook, Miss N. C. Ohtsu, Miss  
Conner, R. H. Ohtsu, Miss  
Chan Yau Wing Ohtsu, Miss  
Cutter, Miss. Pierce, W. H.  
Carter, D. T. Polter, Rev. H. C.  
Cameron, D. C. Philipps, J. H.  
Chambers, E. W. Pijnapel, J. H.  
Crony, B. Pierson, Miss  
Cordova, F. H. Perrine, Mrs. R. L.  
Cox, Miss M. J. Pantuch, J.  
Charles, J. Capt. Pitro, R.  
Cworthington, O. Parker, Mrs. A.  
Dawtershaw, Mrs. Pouse, S. E.  
Durant, A. Beckers, R.  
Dum, Capt. C. M. Putman, J. K.  
Delem, Mrs. L. Payot, H.  
Dubbers, A. Perrine, Rev. S. A.  
Davidson, N. J. Paton, Mrs. J. F.  
David, M. W. Plot, R.  
Deladonessa Pantheon, Mr. & Mrs. A.  
D'Arcy, Miss E. Puthi, R. P.  
Dauncoy, C. Rouget, J.  
Droz, Riccardi, P.  
Duncan, D. M. Riccardi, P.  
Ellis, A. Roberts, Mrs. D.  
Elin, M. Rojario, G. D. E.  
Edwards, L.

## Intimations.

NATSUI BUSSAN KAISHA.

No. 6, 1st House Street, Praya Central.

Head Office: TOKIO.

Branch Offices: LONDON, NEW YORK, BOMBAY, SINGAPORE, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, NEWCHANG, and all Ports in JAPAN.

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